



## Release Highlights: December 1, 2005

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### MONTANA

#### Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

<http://ceic.mt.gov/demographics.htm>

The Census Bureau has just released a special series of estimates on income and correlating poverty status by state, county, and school district. The main objective of this program is the administration of federal programs and the allocation of federal funds to local jurisdictions.

#### Poverty in Montana

Montana continues to be in the lower half of states with regard to the percentage of people in poverty, currently ranking 40<sup>th</sup> at 14.2%. There is no clear coordination between one's status as a rural state and the poverty rankings. Montana does just slightly better than the state with our largest city, New York at 14.3% (a state which of course has plenty of rural areas). In looking at the top ten states for lower poverty we see that all are in the northeast except Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. The bottom ten track west and south with the exception of Appalachian West Virginia.

The highest poverty levels by county continue to be influenced by Indian Reservations. All seven Reservations make the list of the ten highest poverty counties; with Wheatland, Lincoln, and Golden Valley also in the list. Jefferson, Stillwater and Fallon County comes in with the lowest poverty rates, all at less than 10%.

#### Children and Poverty

Children continue to have higher levels of poverty than the general population, both at the county and statewide level. All children (persons under 18 years of age) show a poverty rate of 19.9% compared to the state total above. The numbers show an even larger number by those who also require the greatest level of dependency: 26.3% of children under the age of 5 are in poverty.

#### Income

While there are of course some correlations between poverty and income data, the numbers show Montana to be lower on the income scale than on the poverty rankings. Montana ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in Median Household income at \$34,449, with Louisiana, Arkansas, West Virginia and Mississippi filling out the bottom of the list (Mississippi has the dubious distinction of being both the lowest income and highest poverty state). Montana was also ranked 46<sup>th</sup> in the 2000 numbers.

### CONTACT

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[Andrew Geiger](#)  
[Research Analyst](#)

Census and Economic  
Information Center  
Montana Department  
of Commerce  
301 S. Park Avenue  
P.O. Box 200505  
Helena, MT 59620  
406.841.2740 Office  
406.841.2702 TDD  
<http://ceic.mt.gov/>

### RECENTLY RELEASED

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**November 18, 2005**  
CEIC Fall Newsletter

**October 26, 2005**  
Gross State Product,  
Revised 2004 Estimates

**October 13, 2005**  
2004 Population Estimates

**October 6, 2005**  
Nonemployer Statistics

**September 28, 2005**  
State Personal & Per Capita  
Personal Income

### UPCOMING RELEASES

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**Mid-December, 2005**  
Consolidate Federal Funds  
Report, 2004

**December 2005**  
Statistical Abstract, 2006

**December 20, 2005**  
State Personal Income, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Quarter 2005